

## Henry Prince First School Religious Education Policy

Religious Education teaches children about the nature of religious beliefs and practices and the importance and influence of these in the lives of believers. Religious education is part of the basic school curriculum and makes an important contribution to the spiritual, moral and cultural development of pupils. We aim to promote a caring and stimulating environment in which the children are encouraged to develop a respect for themselves and others, cooperating with adults and children alike.

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Religious education enables children to investigate and reflect on some of the most fundamental questions asked by people. We develop the children's knowledge and understanding of the major world faiths thus enabling children to develop a sound knowledge not only of Christianity but also of other world religions. Children reflect on what it means to have a faith and to develop their own spiritual knowledge and understanding. We help the children learn *from* religions as well as *about* religions.
2. The aims of religious education are to help children:
  - Develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues in life experiences;
  - Develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major world religions and value systems found in Britain;
  - Develop an understanding of what it means to be committed to a religious tradition;
  - Develop an understanding of religious traditions and to appreciate the cultural differences in Britain today;
  - Develop and promote a tolerant understanding of and respect for religious believers in our multicultural society;
  - Develop investigative and research skills and to enable them to make reasonable judgments about religious issues;
  - Have respect for other peoples' views and to celebrate the diversity in society.

### THE LEGAL POSITION OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Our school curriculum for Religious Education meets the requirements of the 1988 Education Reform Act (ERA). The ERA stipulates that Religious Education is compulsory for all children. The Religious Education curriculum forms an important part of our school's spiritual, moral and social teaching. It also promotes education for citizenship. Our school RE curriculum is based on the Staffordshire LEA's Agreed Syllabus and it meets all the requirements in that document.

### TEACHING AND LEARNING STYLE

Our teaching enables children to extend their own sense of values and promotes their spiritual growth and development. We encourage children to think about their own views and values in relation to the themes and topics studied in the RE curriculum.

Our teaching and learning styles in RE enable children to build on their own experiences and extend their knowledge and understanding of religious traditions. We use their experiences at religious festivals such as: Harvest, Christingle etc to develop their religious thinking.

We recognise the fact that all classes in our school have children of widely differing abilities, and so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child. We achieve this in a variety of ways for example, by:

- Continuing to develop close links with local clergy including regular visits to school and participation in key religious events
- Setting common tasks which are open-ended and can have a variety of responses;
- Setting tasks of increasing difficulty;
- Grouping the children by ability and setting different tasks for each ability group;
- Providing resources of different complexity, adapting to the ability of the child;
- Using classroom assistants to support the work of individuals or groups of children.

RE can be taught through:

- Role play and drama;
- Story-telling;
- Discussion and debate;
- Topic work;
- Reflection;
- Visitors;
- Local and global community
- Media

#### CURRICULUM PLANNING IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We plan our religious education curriculum in accordance with the Staffordshire Agreed Syllabus. We ensure that the topics studied build upon prior learning. We offer opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each unit and we ensure that the planned progression built into the scheme of work offers the children an increasing challenge as they move through the school.

Our medium term plans give details of each unit of work for each term. As we have mixed-age classes, we carry out the medium-term planning on a two year cycle. By doing so, we ensure children have complete coverage of the agreed syllabus.

Date Reviewed: 21.09.2016

Signed: Mr C Kinman